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BREEZE HILL NEWS

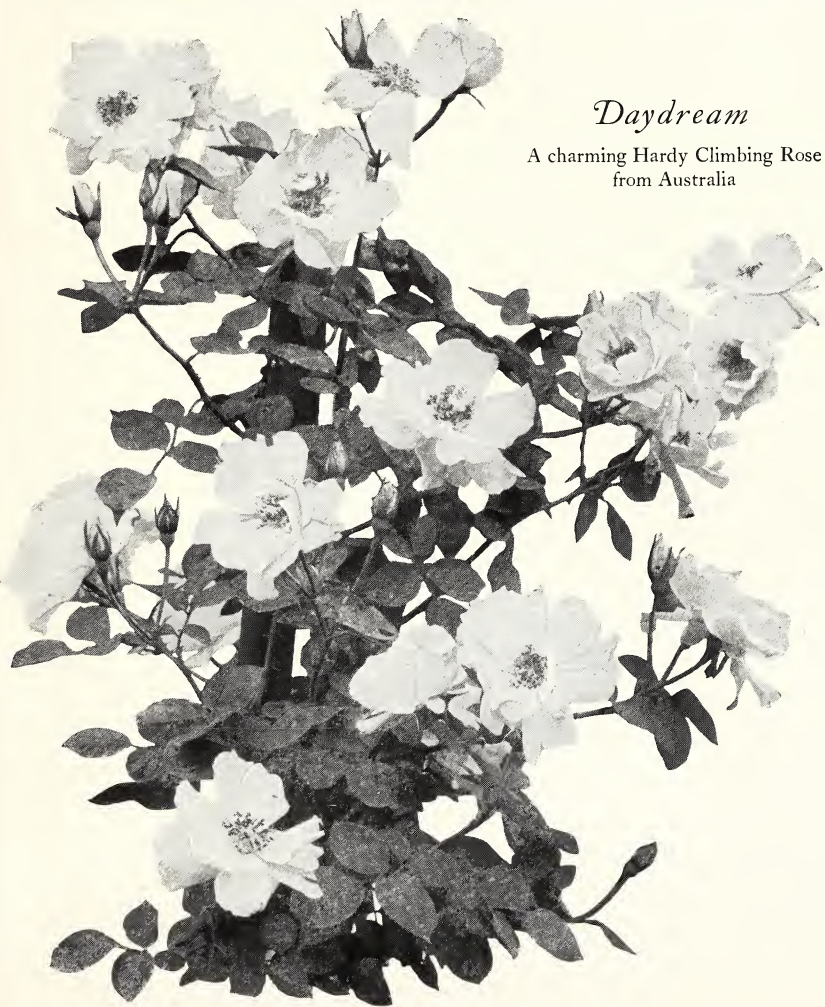
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Daydream

A charming Hardy Climbing Rose
from Australia



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THE J. HORACE MCFARLAND COMPANY and the MCFARLAND PUBLICITY SERVICE publish BREEZE HILL NEWS to be sent without charge to those who may find it useful and to those who ask for it. The purpose is to acquaint readers with the unique facilities for satisfactory selling of noteworthy plants, trees, seeds, bulbs, and the horticultural service provided by the growing and testing done at Breeze Hill Gardens and the intelligent writing, illustrating, and printing done at the Mount Pleasant Press. Questions asked about plants, pictures, promotion, and printing are cheerfully answered, without obligation to either party. The Mount Pleasant Press in Harrisburg houses both organizations, and visitors to it and to the Breeze Hill Gardens are always welcome. The location of the Press is at Crescent and Mulberry streets (ten minutes from the Pennsylvania Railroad Station), and the mail address is Box 687, Harrisburg, Pa.

THE NEW ROSE GARDEN

I

AS BREEZE HILL developed into a major testing-ground for roses, the 250 square feet allotted to them in 1915 was added to little by little until they dominated a large part of the West Garden. The Hybrid Teas were concentrated in a special section which had come into being without a definite plan and was wasteful of space and ill adapted to display them. Hardy Climbers, Hybrid Perpetuals, Rugosas, and species spilled over into the Center Garden, even invading the sacred purlieu of the East and Front Gardens in ever-increasing numbers.

Previous to 1928, several partial rearrangements of the West Garden were made without particular success. The plot was roughly rhomboidal, about 90 feet each way and sloped to the south where it was bordered by a line of evergreens and philadelphuses. On the north was a high, dense hedge of *Berberis thunbergi*, from which the roses were separated by a long narrow bed devoted to philadelphuses and various shrubs. On the west, the barberry hedge continued, along which lay two testing-beds divided by a grass path, and between them and the garden ran a row of climbing roses trained on low posts, making a sort of double fence. On the east were three large beds of shrubs and miscellaneous plants, including one in which some forty or

more rare shrubs from the Arnold Arboretum had been planted in 1913 without knowing how much space they would eventually require. As might be expected, they were badly overgrown and crowded.

The reconstruction of the Rose Garden was undertaken late in October, 1928, at which time many of the roses were still in bloom. The new design necessitated making the new beds directly over the old ones and across the paths then in existence. As we hoped to save most of the roses in the old garden for replanting, we laid out the new design on the ground with strings, and began by constructing new beds where they interfered the least with the old ones, and gathered into them roses which belonged there. Considerable study was required to work to the best advantage, but by maneuvering the work from one section of the garden to another, we were able to get along with comparatively little lifting and storing of rose plants. A great deal of resodding had to be done. The work required about six weeks of unrelenting labor, interrupted at times by unfavorable weather



To lay out a perfect oval of predetermined proportions is no mean problem

and other garden work, so that it was not finished until the first week in December.*

The main path from the Center Garden, after descending the steps, crossed an open space and passed below the row of evergreens at the south edge. The first of these evergreens was a large Japanese yew, and beside it, at the southeast corner of the garden, an entrance which was blocked by rose-beds immediately inside. This entrance acquired importance by its relation to the path which had become the axis of the whole garden. Consequently, a straight grass walk was laid out from the yew to the northwest corner of the plot, making an urgently needed opening to the street. In the northeast corner of this section stood a magnificent, much-prized *Lonicera korolkowi floribunda*. A wide walk diagonally across the space, cutting the first path at right angles in the center of the garden, gave this shrub a proper setting. At the crossing, an oval

*Here "The Boss" footnotes the fact that Mr. Stevens did the difficult job of imposing a new Rose Garden upon an old garden while the latter was growing and blooming without really closing off the roses from the continuing visitors.



Our pet Rosa Ecae got ready for
a journey



Rosa Ecae on the way to her
new home

grass-plot was designed, and around it, in each of the four quarters made by the intersecting walks, four rose-beds were laid out to fill the entire space, after all the interfering beds and shrubs were removed. This made an oval garden, surrounded by a walk, on the outside of which were raised pillars six feet apart. Later arches were sprung across them and over the main paths.

One of the quarters was devoted to red roses, one to yellow roses, one to the orange-pink and dark pink varieties, and one to light pink and white. The climbers on the pillars were planted with similar respect to color. The space in front of the climbers was devoted to Polyanthas, Chinas, and similar varieties. Behind them, and between the climbers, were grouped many Hybrid Perpetuals which had accumulated at Breeze Hill. In the large spaces behind the climbing roses at the southwest corner of the garden were planted the philadelphuses removed from other beds.

In the season of 1929 we began reducing the number of varieties in the oval garden, and this work was continued in the spring of 1930. Most of the roses sent to Breeze Hill for testing were customarily retained until they died, with the result that we were growing many more varieties than were either useful or advisable. The severe winter of 1929 removed quite a number of old, weak plants which we replaced with better varieties. Many others which we did not care for were also discarded, so that about one-half of the main garden is now reduced to the least number of varieties considered sufficient for an adequate display. Our hopeful intention is to limit the garden eventually to forty-eight varieties in the oval section.

The two long beds lying between the hedge of climbing roses and the barberry hedge, along Twenty-first Street, were used in 1928 for testing, partly to determine whether it was possible to grow roses next the barberry and the rose hedges. In the spring of 1930, ground for new testing-beds was stolen from the vegetable garden, and the old testing-

Poppies and potatoes occupied the site in 1912



The West Garden before it became a garden, 1909



Annuals made it gay in 1917



← The blooms of 1930



Roses captured the plot with this result in 1924



The Rose Garden in 1929, after being rebuilt
FROM RUBBISH TO ROSES



Minor changes produced some improvement in design, 1926

beds were devoted to display purposes. This is only temporary, as probably the 1931 trials will have to be moved again to these long borders.

II

The task of selecting the permanent varieties for the main display is not easy. It is quite possible that there will be mistakes and that the same forty-eight which we prefer this year will not satisfy us another. This slight uncertainty is one of the many things which keeps alive our eager interest and zest.

Among the yellow and nearly yellow roses, we have not found many superior to Independence Day for a continuous show. Its rival is the very similar Ariel. Mrs. Erskine Pembroke Thom gives us the best pure yellow flowers of good form, and more of them than any other variety we have tried. Consequently, a large space is devoted to these two varieties. The bed which was allotted to Rev. F. Page-Roberts will probably be turned over to Golden Dawn or

some other variety which likes us better. Every year we are more impressed by the beauty and good nature of Mrs. Dunlop Best, a variety which seems to be undeservedly neglected by both nurserymen and amateurs. It has a most definite Tea strain and should become popular in the South if it ever gets started there. Talisman has done very well throughout this summer's awful heat, but at times does not seem to belong in the yellow section.



Making a new bed across an old one

We amused ourselves one hot Sunday by separating the red roses into two types. The flowers of one group fade magenta-pink at the approach of hot weather, no matter what the original color may be. Some which may be as dark and velvety as *Etoile de Hollande* become most unattractive purplish red when the weather is not to their liking. The better group, including *Etoile de Hollande*, *Hawthorn Crimson*, *Château de Clos Vougeot*, and a few others are red, and stay red, even if somewhat lighter in unfavorable weather. We are selecting twelve of this type for the red section, rejecting those which have a decided purple tendency, and we hope within a few years to reserve this section for varieties which are really red at all times.

Among lighter sorts, *Mme. Jules Bouché* again proved its superiority as a white rose. Nothing has been better than *Lady Ursula* in light pink, although *Mme. Butterfly* has better form. This year we assembled some of the roses of the *Mme. Butterfly* type for comparison, including *Ophelia*, *Mme. Butterfly*, *J. C. M. Mensing*, and *Rapture*. There isn't two cents' worth of difference among the lot. Last year's enthusiasm for *Rapture* has mostly evaporated, and we do not really believe that there is any great improvement upon *Mme. Butterfly* among all her offspring. All of them run to cluster-flowering in very hot weather, which is good for bedding purposes but bad for cutting. Regretfully we feel we must banish *Miss Willmott* from the most prominent white bed. Our choice for replacement wavers between the dainty but super-vigorous *White Ensign* and the lovely *Nuntius Pacelli*. They are both more or less novelties, and as such, perhaps not to be trusted to such an important place. Perhaps we will fall back upon good old *Grange Colombe*.

Of orange-pink varieties, we still hold *Willowmere* the chief. *Betty Uprichard* is brilliant, but thin and fleeting. *Souv. de Georges Pernet* is enormous, brilliant, but rather meteoric. We keep a generous space for *Mme. Léon Pain*.



The new Rose Garden tucked under protecting evergreens—winter 1928

Among lighter colors and colder pinks, Mrs. Henry Morse and Mrs. Henry Bowles deserve their place, the former persisting even in extreme heat.

As to climbers, there is nothing particularly new to say. The best hardy yellow climber is *Le Rêve*. In fact, there is no other climbing rose half as yellow, except *Star of Persia*, which does not bloom for us. *Emily Gray* froze to the ground in the winter of 1929, but that curious *Wichuraiana* seedling which Alexander Cumming sent out for trial and which has proved identical with *Emily Gray* in growth and bloom, gave us a fine display of golden buff flowers. Our plant of *Primevère*, which is the correct name of the variety that Dreer sent out as "*Primrose*," is too small to tell us anything yet. *Jacotte*, while grown amongst the yellow roses, is more nearly orange-buff, and this year had not grown enough since transplanting to do its best.

The most spectacular red climber this year was *Black*

Boy. It is not as floriferous as some of the others, but the exquisite beauty and texture of its petals and the magnificent size of its blooms much more than compensate for mere quantity of flowers. Dr. Huey bloomed well but burned brown about the edges as usual. Our Australian pet, Scorchers, did its blazing best, and Miss Marion Manifold was superb.

Amongst the pink varieties, Coralie and Albertine deserve special mention. Milano looks most promising, while the new Climbing Mme. Edouard Herriot is vigorous and astonishingly free-flowering. We hope it proves hardy, and the same hope also extends to Climbing Los Angeles. Two Australian roses seemed to bloom with unusual beauty this year, Kitty Kininmonth and Queen of Hearts.

Of white and light-colored climbers, the immense flowers of Breeze Hill always attract much attention, and Dr. W. Van Fleet is almost a sensation, but our favorite white climbing rose this year was Paul's Lemon Pillar. We are a little weary of curbing the extraordinary vigor of Silver Moon. Chastity is very lovely and Glenn Dale fair of its kind. Not in the Rose Garden, but close to one of the test-plots, is a plant of Mermaid, a Bracteata hybrid of suspicious hardiness (though it persists at Breeze Hill) which gives, all season, a succession of lovely, single, five-inch, primrose flowers amid foliage of peculiar elegance.

Mme. Grégoire Staechelin, a tremendous grower, attracted more attention



Hardy Climbers, Hybrid Perpetuals,
and Polyanthas



The testing section in 1928

than other pink climbers, although it is not as lovely as Daydream or as delicately beautiful as Nora Cunningham.

Amongst the newer varieties of climbers under test we find Sunday Best to be extremely promising, with large, single, vivid red flowers. Thelma, a bunch-flowered Wichuraiana climber of about the same shade as Mrs. Charles Bell, looks as if it might be valuable because of its unique color. We are seriously disappointed in Chaplin's Pink Climber which bloomed here for the second year. Bushfire, another Australian variety, was very brilliant, and we got a great kick out of Solarium and Ernestine Cosme, two roses which we have overlooked for a number of years.

Nothing can be said here about the new varieties on trial in the test-beds, the experiments with roses in half-shade, and in proximity to trees and shrubs. We can only speak now of the outstanding sorts, expecting to discuss some of the 825 varieties of roses which are growing at Breeze Hill as opportunity occurs.